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COUNTRY Albania

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1. The importance of ex-King Zog as a stabilizing and moderating influence in all Albanian emigre affairs has been stressed in recent conversations of Haxhi Dostl, chairman of NCFA (National Committee for Free Albania), who believes that the ex-monarch is the only Albanian personality capable of unifying all Albanian exile factions.
2. Dostl has therefore expressed concern over Zog's reportedly serious illness, which has been attributed in part to "poisoning of food," as well as to the recurrence of an earlier liver condition. In the event of Zog's death, Dostl pointed out that Zog's sphere of influence would shift to Abdur Agapi, to include Sajko Kryeriu, whom Dostl described as representing the "chafetin elements." While this would not constitute any immediate threat to the functioning of the NCFA, it would, nevertheless, be extremely disturbing and would set the stage for a factional conflict that would be carried over into a liberated Albania. Such strife, Dostl stated could lead to a politically severed nation, north Albania against the south.
3. According to Dostl, the most effective single measure to be taken in the event of Zog's death, would be the formation of a regency, with the Queen Mother (Geraldine) as head of the regency council. But, Dostl reaffirmed, as long as Zog remains active, he continues to be the most qualified Albanian emigre leader who has enough influence, and who is shrewd enough, to hold all Albanian exile factions in line during whatever interval remains until Albania is liberated.
4. Source Comment: That is, a regency for an Albanian government-in-exile.

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